NABARD's Scheme for loan to non-farm sector

859. PROF. SAURIN BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether NABARD has a scheme for Cooperative Land Development Banks to lend Rs. 7,50,000/- to non-farm sectors under certain conditions;

(b) if so, whether West Bengal remains outside the scope of the scheme;

(c) whether NABARD has been contemplating extension of the Scheme known as integrated scheme for financing non-farm activities by withdrawing some of the restrictions; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has reported that it has a refinance scheme called 'Integrated Loan Scheme' under which Cooperative Land Development Banks can finance non-farm activities and draw refinance upto Rs. 7,50,000/- on automatic basis.

(b) The Integrated Loan Scheme is available to Land Development Banks (LDBs) subject to certain eligibility conditions. One such condition is that the LDB should be classified as 'A' or 'B' in audit. Since West Bengal LDB is not classified under audit, the scheme has not been extended to it.

(c) and (d) The matter of relaxing the conditions will be finalised by NABARD in consultation with National Cooperative Agriculture & Rural Development Banks Federation.

Trade Unions demand for relaxation in Income Tax and Bonus

860. SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact htat the Central trade unions have in a pre-budget meeting with him demanded raising of the Income Tax limit to the level of Rs. 50,000/- and removing ceiling applicable to payment of bonus; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) On raising the income-tax exemption limit, Government's decision is reflected in the Finance Bill, 1992. There is no immediate proposal to enhance the ceiling limits under the Payment of Bonus Act.

Vacancies in BIFR

861. SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY.
SHRI MOHAMMED AMIN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that key posts in BIFR are lying vacant for quite a long time;

(b) if so, what are details thereof; and

(c) what steps have been taken or are proposed to be taken by Government to fill up these posts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) to (c) Presumably the question refers to the posts of Chairman and Members of the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR). In terms of the provisions of subsection (2) of section 4 of the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985, the BIFR shall consist of a Chairman and not less than two and not more than fourteen other Members. At present, the BIFR consists of one post of Chairman and eight posts of Members, of which three posts of Members are lying vacant. While one vacancy arose in June, 1991, the other two arose in January, 1992. Government have already initiated necessary steps to fill up the vacancies.